***Press* Release**

The Meteorological Office

PRESS OFFICE

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Boat Show visitors in-line for free web forecasts.

Southampton Boat Show - 10-19 September 1999
Stand no. A16 Solent Hall

Thousands of pounds worth of free access to marine weather forecasts will be given to visitors to The Met. Office¹s stand at the Southampton Boat Show this year.

Every day the first one hundred visitors to the stand will receive £5 worth of tickets for MetWEB, The Met. Office¹s on-line weather service, giving them the opportunity to sample web-based forecasts for themselves.

Among the services available via MetWEB is the new Mediterranean forecast. The service provides a detailed picture of sea state, wind, temperature, visibility and weather conditions for up to five days ahead in the western Mediterranean. The forecasts cover the areas of Gibraltar to Malaga, Malaga to Cartagena, Cartegena to Valencia, Valencia to Barcelona and The Balearics.

Throughout the show The Met. Office will be demonstrating its Short Messaging Service (SMS), which enables users to dial forecasts from any mobile phone on the Vodafone network to receive immediate weather updates in the form of an on-screen text message. SMS was unveiled at last year¹s Southampton Boat Show, and currently delivers up to 10,000 forecasts a month.

Visitors will also get the opportunity to witness some of the latest technological developments for sending and receiving weather forecasts. Some may even be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of Met. Office and BBC TV forecaster Peter Cockcroft, who is expected to make an appearance at this year¹s show.

The MetWEB service can be accessed on the internet at www.met-office.gov.uk/MWIntro/MWIntro.html. Books of virtual MetWEB tickets (minimum purchase £10) can be purchased by making a single call to the helpline on 08700 750 077 or by e-mail: metweb@meto.gov.uk.

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